

**Request for Proposals**  
**Louisiana Beekeepers Association: Grant Awards for Applied Honey Bee Research**

**Background:** The Louisiana Beekeepers Association (LBA) has two funding sources for awarding grants for applied honey bee research.

**The Honey Bee License Plate Fund**

The first source derives from the 2012 Louisiana Revised Statute 47:463.157 and is associated with an annual royalty fee collected by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and forwarded to the Louisiana Beekeepers Association. Under that statute, grant awards from specialty license plate royalty fees are to be used solely for financial aid for graduate students and postgraduate students enrolled in a Louisiana postsecondary institution working on applied honey bee research projects at the United States Department of Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Research Laboratory in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**The Margaret Prell Memorial Fund**

A second source for grant awards for applied honey bee research is the funds that have been privately donated to the LBA. Grant awards from these funds have less restrictive eligibility criteria and can include applicants other than solely university graduate students. This scholarship has been named after Mrs. Margaret Prell. She served on the LBA Board as the secretary for a number of years and volunteered countless hours promoting beekeeping and the Association.

The LBA has adequate funding from both of the funding sources described above to announce a competitive grant program for the awarding of applied honey bee research grants. We welcome research proposals for potential grant funding up to a \$5000 limit for either of these two categories of grants. Grant funds may be requested and used for project-related needs such as research supplies, purchase or rental of equipment, and travel. The LBA does not allow institutional indirect costs. There will be one or several grants awarded each year, depending on the quality of research grant applications. Proposal applications will be accepted annually from January 1 - April 30 and the award period is June 1 – June 30.

**Proposal Submission Criteria:**

1. Proposals are welcome from graduate students attending universities and from any others conducting applied honey bee research. These additional applicants could include undergraduate students, post docs, faculty, and beekeepers. The justifications for the proposed research, its objectives, and a plan for work activities during the year after a funding award should be clearly stated. Proposals should not exceed four pages (double-spaced), excluding a title page, as well as a possible reference listing, a short personal resume, and a letter of support from a graduate faculty advisor or other persuasive supporter for the proposal. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.

2. The proposal should be arranged in the following format: (a) cover page to include title of research, applicant name, university or other affiliation, and e-mail address and telephone number; (b) need and justification for proposed research; (c) research objectives; (d) project description; (e) work/activity timetable; (f) budget; (g) reference listing; (h) short (half-page or less) personal resume; and (i) letter of support from a graduate faculty advisor or other individual supporting the usefulness of this research.

3. The investigator should present their work progress and/or conclusions at the Annual Louisiana Beekeepers Association Convention, usually held the 4th weekend of August, the year after the award. (For example, if the scholarship is awarded June 2024, a report would be expected August 2025.) Acknowledgment of the source of this financial support and the role of Louisiana Beekeepers Association should be included in any resulting presentations or publications. This will also include a passive poster presentation during the convention, cost not to exceed \$100. Travel and accommodations for presentation at the convention will be arranged and paid for by the LBA treasurer no later than 2 weeks prior to the event. This expense should not be included in the research budget proposal.

4. Youth are encouraged to apply for the Margaret Prell Memorial Scholarship.

5. Electronic copy of the proposal should be submitted by April 30. Applications and any questions concerning this grant competition can be directed to this email address: [la4honeybees@gmail.com](mailto:la4honeybees@gmail.com) - subject line "LBA Scholarship Application," with cc's to Stacy Blomquist, [fsbuglady@gmail.com](mailto:fsbuglady@gmail.com) and Sammy Ramazani, [mramazani2000@gmail.com](mailto:mramazani2000@gmail.com).

**Proposal Review Process:** Board members of the Louisiana Beekeepers Association and experienced researchers working at the USDA ARS Honey Bee Lab in Baton Rouge will serve on a five-person grant review panel. None of the panel members will have a direct connection to any research project for which a proposal has been submitted. In case of such conflicts, that panel member will be excused from voting. Evaluation of proposals will be made on the following criteria: scientific merit (50 pts); relevance of project to improving beekeeping and honey bee sustainability (30 pts); and appropriateness of the budget proposal to actual work to be performed (20 pts).

All funds awarded from this scholarship must be expended within a year of the award, and a full accounting of expenditures made available to the Treasurer of the Louisiana Beekeepers Association by November 15 following the final August presentation.

Cost extensions will be considered at the discretion of the LBA board.